United Nations DP/CF/TCDC/2/EXTENSION I

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Extension of the second cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries (2001-2003)

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension: 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

I. Background

1. In its decision 2001/7 of 5 February 2001, the Executive Board approved the second cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries (2001-2003). To support the activities outlined in the framework, it approved a budget consisting of $7.723 million in regular (core) resources and $15 million in other (non-core) resources, as indicated in document DP/CF/TCDC/2.

2. The strategic goals to be pursued in implementing the programme comprise: (a) using South-South cooperation as a strategy to enable developing countries to become more effective participants in multilateral development cooperation; and (b) turning this form of cooperation into a complementary development platform enabling all development partners to pool policy, institutional, technical and financial resources towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of cutting the incidence of extreme poverty in half by 2015.

3. To achieve these strategic goals, the framework focuses the work programme of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) on two areas: (a) mobilizing global support for South-South cooperation; and (b) acting as a catalyst for the development of innovative models of South-South cooperation for partnering, resource mobilization and mainstreaming.

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4. Over the past two and half years, the Special Unit for TCDC has played a critical role in promoting South-South cooperation in UNDP and the United Nations system in general through support to South-South policy dialogue, the expansion of South-South information flows, and support to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. It has also helped to further South-South collaboration in social policies and science and technology cooperation in the developing world.

II. Justification

5. Pending General Assembly resolutions regarding South-South cooperation, the need to align the UNDP second global cooperation framework with the second cooperation framework for TCDC — and current efforts to establish collaborative arrangements with other UNDP bureaux — necessitates the extension of the second cooperation framework for a period of one year.

6. The High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC held its thirteenth session in May 2003, coinciding with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for TCDC. At that session, United Nations Member States spoke of the need for a comprehensive South-South development strategy that complements North-South cooperation in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Following their endorsement by the General Assembly at its present fifty-eighth session, the decisions of the High-level Committee are certain to have a bearing on the work programme of the Special Unit. It is therefore important to finalize the third cooperation framework for TCDC after December 2003 to be able to design the framework in a manner that responds to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

7. Furthermore, at its present fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly has before it a report of the Secretary-General containing proposals to launch a United Nations Day and/or a United Nations Decade on South-South cooperation. A favourable resolution on this proposal would require the Special Unit to undertake a number of activities that should also be included in the third cooperation framework for TCDC.

8. The Guidelines prepared by the Special Unit to help to systematize the policies and procedures of various United Nations organizations in their support for TCDC are also before the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Their endorsement in December 2003 would have a significant impact on the work of the Special Unit, which has the task of using the document to spur coordinated support to TCDC throughout the United Nations system.

9. Practical ways of aligning South-South cooperation with the overarching objective of meeting the MDGs have been outlined at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in 2001, the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey in 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2003. Broad consultations, however, are still necessary to design a results-oriented third cooperation framework for TCDC that complements the UNDP third global cooperation framework in responding to the priorities articulated by United Nations Member States at recent United Nations conferences. It should be noted that the

UNDP second global cooperation framework and the second cooperation framework for TCDC were presented to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2001 as interrelated programmes characterized by interregional activities. Extending the second cooperation framework for TCDC to the end of 2004 would make it possible for the Special Unit to continue aligning its work with the UNDP second global cooperation framework, which has already been extended by the Executive Board to the end of 2004.

10. In its contribution to current efforts to transform UNDP into a knowledge-based organization, the Special Unit has placed its information system – the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) – at the service of the subregional resource facilities for the benefit of the entire organization. Accordingly, the Special Unit has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate with the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) in order to turn WIDE into the electronic platform for the dissemination of information on experts, experiences and institutions in the South. This initiative is in harmony with the global programme, which aims to ensure that country offices provide advisory services based on the very best intellectual contributions that the global development community has to offer. It will take at least one year to determine the best way forward after assessing the initial collaboration of the Special Unit for TCDC with BDP. In addition, the Special Unit is forging collaborative arrangements with the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery that will also require time to finalize and be included in the third cooperation framework for TCDC.

III. Objectives

11. During the proposed one-year extension period, the objectives and activities of the second cooperation framework for TCDC, 2001-2003, outlined in document DP/CF/TCDC/2 would continue to be followed while pursuing the various initiatives indicated in section II. Steps would also be taken to continue aligning the work of the Special Unit for TCDC with the objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to integrate South-South approaches into UNDP practices in efforts to mainstream South-South cooperation.

12. Programme activities to be supported by the Special Unit during the extension period would be consistent with the focus areas of the second cooperation framework as outlined above and elaborated in document DP/CF/TCDC/2. In formulating the third cooperation framework, attention would also be paid to activities responding to the priorities articulated by United Nations Members countries in regard to South-South cooperation at recent United Nations conferences held in Brussels, Johannesburg and Monterrey. This would enable the Special Unit to complement the objectives of the UNDP global cooperation framework contained in document DP/GCF/EXTENSION I.

13. The lessons on South-South cooperation contained in the report on the implementation of the second cooperation framework for TCDC (DP/2003/14) will inform the formulation of the third cooperation framework, which will be submitted to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2004.

IV. Resources

14. Of the total regular (core) resources of $7.4 million allocated to the Special Unit for TCDC for 2001-2003, a total amount of $2.5 million was disbursed during 2001-2002. The expected expenditure for 2003 is $3.8 million. In line with the second cooperation framework, the Special Unit has already programmed $4.5 million for 2004, drawing from the carry-over and from its fixed annual allocation for the year of 3.5 million.

15. Other (non-core) resources mobilized for the second cooperation framework 2001-2003, totaled $10.3 million, all of which has been programmed. For 2004 the Special Unit expects to mobilize $3.4 million, including cost-sharing, trust fund contributions and parallel financing. During its fifty-seventh session, in its resolution A/57/263, paragraph 10, the General Assembly decided to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation in the Pledging Conference for Development Activities in order to attract additional resources.

IV. Recommendation

16. The Administrator requests that the Executive Board approve the extension of the second cooperation framework for technical cooperation among developing countries, 2001-2003, for a period of one year beginning 1 January 2004.